

## **COLONEL BRIAN K. BALFE**

**Commander, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII,  
and 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Infantry)**

Colonel Brian Kerry Balfe assumed command of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII in April 2008. His previous assignment was Brigade Commander, 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Infantry), New York Army National Guard (NYARNG).

Colonel Balfe was born in Cornwall, New York in 1960. He is a 1983 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. His first active duty assignment was the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he served as Multiple Launch Rocket System Firing Platoon Leader, 8-inch Cannon Battery Fire Direction Officer and the Composite Battalion Fire Direction Officer. He next served as Battalion Liaison Officer, Republic of Korea Army and Battalion Logistics Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized), South Korea. Colonel Balfe's final active duty billet was Battalion Fire Support Officer, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light), Fort Ord, California.

Since joining the NYARNG in October 1990, Colonel Balfe has held multiple leadership and command positions. His assignments include: Battalion Fire Direction Officer; Battery Commander; Battalion Logistics Officer; Division Fire Support Officer; Division Fire Support Staff Officer; Battalion Operations Officer and Battalion Executive Officer. Colonel Balfe is a two-time Battalion Commander and two-time O6 level commander. In 1998, he was selected to command 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Light), becoming the first Field Artillery Officer to command a NYARNG infantry unit. Colonel Balfe subsequently commanded 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 156<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery (Light), which he deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, LA in August 2001. He also deployed a battalion Task Force to New York City, New York in support of civilian authorities in the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. In October 2002, Colonel Balfe was selected as the Regimental Commander of the 106<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Regional Training Institute, The Army School System at Camp Smith, New York. Colonel Balfe assumed command of the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Infantry) in May 2006.

Colonel Balfe is a graduate of the United States Army Airborne School, Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Multiple Launch Rocket System Cadre Course, TACFIRE Fire Support Course, Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College, Electronic Warfare Staff Officers Course, Senior Transportation Officer Qualification Course, and the Infantry Pre-Command Course. Colonel Balfe graduated from the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania in 2003, receiving his Masters in Strategic Studies.

Colonel Balfe's military awards include: Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star; Overseas Service Ribbon; and the Army Service Ribbon.